

In the Claims:

30. (Amended) A method of conveying an email message including an address field containing a descriptor of an intended recipient of the email message, the descriptor being different from an email account name of the intended recipient, the method comprising:

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sending a database query to a database of identifying elements associated with the intended recipient and email addresses to search for the email address associated with the descriptor, wherein said descriptor is a combination of one or more of the identifying elements;
and
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transmitting said email message to said email address found during said search of the email addresses if a unique email address is located.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said descriptor includes one or more identifying elements selected from a list including a telephone number associated with said intended recipient, a business name associated with said intended recipient, a personal name associated with said intended recipient, and a part of a street address associated with said intended recipient.

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42. (Amended) The method of claim 41, further comprising forwarding an advice to the sender or recipient of said email message who is a registered user of said method that the information has been forwarded to the unregistered user of said method.

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47. (Amended) A method for handling undeliverable electronic mail, comprising:
receiving an email message including an invalid destination address that includes a descriptor;
sending a database query to a database to search for records partially or completely matching parts of said invalid destination address; and
forwarding said email message to a valid unique email address retrieved from said database according to the result of said search for records.

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64. (Amended) A method of conveying an email message comprising:
receiving an email message forwarded by a sender, said email message including an invalid destination address that includes a descriptor;
sending a database query to a database to search for records partially or completely matching parts of said invalid destination address; and

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sending a notification message to the sender of said email message, said notification message advising the sender of the results of said database search.

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81. (Amended) A method of conveying an email message comprising:

receiving an email message from its sender, said email message including an address field containing a descriptor of the intended recipient of said email message and which is different from an email account name of said intended recipient, the descriptor being a combination of one or more identifying elements associated with the intended recipient;

sending a database query to a database of the one or more identifying elements and email addresses to locate a unique email address associated with said descriptor; and

forwarding the message to the email address yielded by the database.

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99. (Amended) A method of determining an email address comprising:

maintaining a database where email addresses are linked with identifying elements relevant for a person at each email address so that a user can provide one or more of the identifying elements;

wherein upon recognition by a server that information given in an address field of the email address is insufficient or not in the correct form for delivery; and

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a search is conducted of the database to determine a relevant email address, the identifying elements including at least one of a given name, surname, address, name of business, and/or telephone number.

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102. (Amended) The method of claim 99, wherein said correct or complete email address is passed from the database back to the server to enable it to send said necessary message.

116. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the email message is transmitted where a prescribed threshold of a match between the descriptor of said email message and descriptors with said database is exceeded.

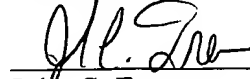
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117. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the email message is forwarded if a prescribed threshold of a match between said invalid destination address and said valid email address is exceeded.

Please note that amendments to claims 30, 31, 42, 47, 64, 81, 99 and 102 are being made solely to reformulate the language of the claims and to broaden the claims and new claims 116-117 are being presented to provide additional coverage regarding methods of handling electronic

messages. Accordingly, the amendments to claims 30, 31, 42, 47, 64, 81, 99 and 102 and the addition of claims 116-117 are not being made for reasons of patentability as defined in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

Respectfully submitted,



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